

Approved

Rockville Environment Commission Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday, September 1, 2016

Diamondback Terrapin, City Hall,
111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland

Attendance

Commissioners Present: Chair John Becker, Steve Cardon, Alicia Hosmer, Amanda Aparicio, Clark Reed, Lea Rosenbohm, Steve Sprague, and Fedon Vayanis.

Commissioners Absent: Helen Triolo

Council Liaison: Mark Pierzchala (absent)

City Staff: Erica Shingara and Lise Soukup (Environmental Management)

Guests: Anne Goodman, Marjie Hughes, and Lincoln Reed, and members of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) included Liz Lee, Steve Rosen and Wakefield Travers, Jr.

Meeting Commencement and Introductions

The meeting convened at 7:00 pm by Chair Becker and guests were introduced. Commissioner Amanda (Matheny) Aparicio informed the group that her last name has officially changed and her contact information will also be updated. A revised roster and contact information will be circulated to the Commission in October.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Cardon moved and Commissioner Rosenbohm seconded a motion to approve the July 1, 2016 minutes. The motion passed (6-0). Commissioners Hosmer and Sprague were absent for the vote.

Community Wildlife Habitat (CWH)

Anne Goodman expressed her appreciation to the Commission for honoring her late husband, Jim Farrelly, with an Environmental Excellence Award and for continuing the work that they had started several years ago on *Community Wildlife Habitat* certification under the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). While Jim and Anne were team leaders, they met all of the certification criteria except the points in the certification category. She was thankful that the Commission, spearheaded by Commissioner Hosmer, continued outreach efforts that finally achieved certification. While she will no longer serve as a habitat team leader, she is available for some activities to support the program (home visits, trading plants, etc.) Chair Becker thanked her and requested that she meet with the Americana to discuss CWH opportunities.

The Commission discussed next steps for promoting and maintaining certification. Erica Shingara reviewed the recertification requirements. Rockville will need to accumulate 40 post-certification points each year and submit an annual report to the NWF by July 31. The Commission reviewed the following point options and how Rockville can maintain annual recertification:

| Points | Activity | Suggested Rockville Action |
|------------|--|---|
| 10 | Secure a feature article in the local media about your project | Environmental Management to coordinate with PIO to feature a CWH article in Rockville Reports and Channel 11 (October) |
| 10 | Maintain info kiosk, library or website established during certification stage | Rockville to maintain CWH website and the library at Croydon Creek Nature Center (CCNC) |
| 10 | Continue to host an annual event started during the certification state | CCNC hosts annual Springfest with a native plant sale in April. |
| 5 | Participate (through a booth) in at least one community event | Environment Commission to include information on CWH at the booth at Hometown Holidays |
| 10 | Host or organize a Habitat Stewards or conservation advocacy training | Environmental Management to include conservation training in the <i>Rainscapes Rewards</i> “Green Your Backyard” information sessions that are typically held in the spring and fall. |
| Total = 45 | <i>Other options discussed include hosting a garden tour (10), participating in a quarterly conference call (5), having a member of the team serve on the Environment Commission (5), and each additional property certification (1 to 5 points)</i> | |

Commissioner Hosmer discussed holding a celebration event and inviting certified properties and the Mayor and Council (either a sign installation or a celebration/thank you event).

- **Action Item:** The Sustainability Committee will discuss options for a celebration at their September meeting.
- **Action Item:** Erica Shingara will check about adding the Rockville name and logo to the CWH sign, potential sign installation locations, and options for additional signs.

Floodplain Ordinance

Commissioner Aparicio reported that the Watershed Committee reviewed the proposed updates to the floodplain ordinance at their July meeting and recommended endorsing the ordinance. Lise Soukup, Engineer with the Department of Public Works, described the upcoming public process for the ordinance (Chapter 10 of the City Code). A request for Mayor and Council introduction is tentatively scheduled for September 19, followed by a public hearing, discussion and instruction, and then possible adoption in mid-December. Public outreach will include a new floodplain website, information in Rockville Reports, and letters to impacted property owners. Commissioner Aparicio moved and Commissioner Cardon seconded the motion to endorse and recommend the updated floodplain ordinance. The motion passed (8-0).

Hydraulic Fracturing in Maryland

Liz Lee, Steve Rosen and Wakefield Travers, Jr. of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) gave a presentation on hydraulic fracturing (fracking) in Maryland. CCAN met with the Rockville Sustainability Committee on July 27, 2016 to convey citizens’ concerns about fracking and to discuss the potential introduction of a resolution by the City of Rockville in support of a statewide ban on fracking in Maryland. A report, written in response to the Committee’s request for additional information, was submitted to the Commission for review. The presentation reviewed the results of the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) and Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) study on risks associated with fracking in western Maryland and data from various public health studies. While fracking in Rockville and Montgomery County is effectively banned through zoning, the presenters described potential adverse effects to air and water quality

that upstream/upwind operations in western Maryland could have downstream/downwind in Rockville. Maryland's 2.5 year legislative moratorium requires MDE to adopt new regulations by October 1, 2016 and MDE may not issue a permit before October 1, 2017. The Commission posed questions about the timetable for this issue, the changes to the proposed 2015/2016 regulations, and proposed legislation for a statewide ban. CCAN described that they met with several members of the Mayor and Council and are requesting the Commission support a resolution for a statewide ban.

- **Action Item:** CCAN will forward the Commission a comparison between the new 2016 MDE proposed regulations and the 2015 proposed regulations and a draft resolution for consideration.
- **Action Item:** The Commission will include this topic on the agenda for discussion at the October meeting.

Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP)

Erica Shingara shared the environment section (pages 9-12) from [“Rockville 2040: Results of the Citywide Forums”](#) which summarizes the results of the Citywide forums for the Comprehensive Master Plan update. The purpose of the Citywide Forums was for the community to work with staff to produce a set of policies and goals that would serve as a starting point for developing the draft updated master plan. The forums solicited community input on several key master plan elements, such as Environment, Community Facilities, Economic Development, Historic Preservation, Housing, Land Use, Transportation and Water Systems. Long Range Planning is currently working on the next steps for the CMP.

- **Action Item:** Each committee to review the policy statements from the environment section and forward Erica Shingara any comments, questions, or recommendations.

General Updates

Chair Becker reported that he is developing the Commission's workplan, schedule, budget and webpage and will review these items with Environmental Management in September and refine them for the Commission to review in October.

Committee Reports:

- ***Composting and Recycling:*** Commissioner Rosenbohm reported that the committee did not meet in August but held a conference call with Environmental Management on July to discuss Montgomery County's Bill 28-16, Solid Waste (Trash) – Strategic Plan on Composting. The committee drafted a letter encouraging the County to expeditiously move forward with a composting strategic plan and including the municipalities in the planning process. The letter was signed by the Acting City Manager and submitted to the County. They also discussed promoting backyard composting and hosting a composting workshop. Commissioner Aparicio indicated that EMD has a composting presentation and brochure that the committee could use as a starting point for education and outreach efforts.
- ***Energy Committee:*** Commissioner Reed reported that the Montgomery County Solar Co-op has approximately 166 sign-ups. The committee had some challenges staffing a booth at the Farmer's Market in August. They would like to schedule volunteers for the booth on September 10, 17 and 24 to recruit additional sign-ups for the Solar Co-op to meet the September 30th deadline.
- ***Sustainability:*** Commissioner Hosmer reported that CCAN attended the July meeting to discuss hydraulic fracturing. The committee recommended this item be brought to the

Commission's September meeting. They will meet September 21 at 7 p.m. to discuss the next steps for the Community Wildlife Habitat.

- ***Watershed Protection:*** Commissioner Aparicio reported that the committee reviewed the floodplain ordinance in July and did not meet in August. She noted that the Maryvale volunteer stream cleanup will be held on October 22 from 10 a.m. until noon.

Environment Management Division Update

Erica Shingara reviewed upcoming reminders, events and news:

- The Twinbrook storm drain mural map, video, web pages and photos are available at: <http://www.rockvillemd.gov/index.aspx?NID=1856>
- Reminder that the volunteer appreciation event will be held on September 15.
- The City submitted a letter of intent to be a community partner in a Department of Energy grant application. If selected, the grant would allow the City to leverage funds budgeted in the FY2017 fleet replacement schedule to purchase one electric vehicle and receive DOE grant support to purchase and install the first charging station at a City facility (likely City Hall).
- Reminder that the Carl Henn memorial ride and a Green Your Backyard Information session will both be held on September 10.
- The City received a letter from the Maryland Department of the Environment indicating that they intend begin the Tentative Determination process for reissuing the small MS4 general permit in the fall of 2016. The NPDES MS4 program requires permittees to implement best management practices to reduce the discharge of pollutants and improve the quality of receiving water.

New Business

- Commissioner Reed inquired about reports of mosquito spraying in Montgomery County. Erica Shingara indicated that the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Mosquito Control Division has been monitoring areas to prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases. Triggers for MDA spraying occurred in Gaithersburg and Wheaton, but not yet in Rockville. When MDA conducts spraying they also have state and local inspectors go door-to-door in the area to provide information and inspect properties for mosquito breeding sites. Rockville continues to provide routine reminders to residents and neighborhoods to eliminate standing water. MDA provides notice of their activities at: http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/pages/mosquito_control.aspx
- Chair Becker indicated that he may not be able to attend the October meeting and requested a volunteer to serve as chair. He also reported that the Americana was not successful in participating in the solar co-op as a condominium association.

Adjourn

The Commission adjourned by acclamation at 9:00 p.m.

Next Commission Meeting

The Commission will tentatively meet on **Thursday, October 6, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Diamondback Terrapin Conference Room at the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville Maryland 20850-2321.** The public is invited to attend.